

I believe that Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and a violation of the public trust.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

They have been allowed to consolidate and homogenize much of the "news" content their stations provide, which in itself is troubling. Beyond that, however, they have circumvented existing barriers -- already too lenient -- on the percentage of the country their single source can reach.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.